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JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

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SECTION III/8 - ALERT IN EASTERN NAVAL DISTRICT RELAXED

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CUBA, MILITARY ACTIVITY

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COMMENTS :
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[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED

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~~TOP SECRET BINAR~~Capt Quirke
Mr Guldseth

0600 22 November - 0600 23 November 1963

30. CATEGORY 16 -

Comment: Although the exact significance of this activity cannot be determined at this time, it may represent a [redacted] (USN 89, 2/R2 [redacted] R2-63, 222035Z) (TSD) (LAWSON)

31. CATEGORY 11 -

Comment: This activity was intercepted by four US sites, two adjacent to the [redacted] At present the size and scope of this activity or the units participating cannot be determined. (USN 43, 2K/R3 [redacted] R029-63, 230310Z) (TSD) (LAWSON)

32. SECTION III/8 - Cuban Military Alert: Addendum to #23, this file.

1. In a message originated by Banos at 230222Z and relayed by Havana, Punta Maisi was requested to deny access to the coastal observation post until Monday, 25 Nov due to the state of alert.

2. At 222320Z, a message passed between two unidentified units on VHF communications which normally link First Army HQ, Santiago with Guantanamo City stated: "Inform the chief that by orders of LM (unit commander) here, all of them, all of the points were put on alert."

The reason for the alert was not mentioned.

44 USC 2107(5)(g)(2)(D)(i)

(1)(USN 834, 2/Q5 [redacted] R667-63, 230704Z) (TSD)

(2)(USN 835, 2/LP1 [redacted] R167-63, 230217Z) (TSD)

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0600 22 Nov - 0600 23 Nov 1963

Mr. Chapin
Sgt. Chamberlain

22. SECTION III/8 - Cuban - New Commander for Siguanoa SAM Site:

[redacted] it was reported that a new commander for the Siguanoa SAM site had arrived from the Soviet Union. [redacted] have indicated the appointment of new commanders at several SAM sites. In the majority of these cases the new commanders were previously acting as Chief of Staff at another site. The 10 September 1963 activity, represents the initial reflection in combat of a new arrival in Cuba being directly appointed as the commander of a Soviet SAM battalion in Cuba. (DIRNSA, 2/0/[redacted] R210-63, 221758Z Nov) (TSD).

23. SECTION III/8 - Cuban - Addendum on Eastern Naval District:

In a circular message passed at 222044Z, Hq, Eastern Naval District, Banes, instructed naval posts at Lucvitas, Puerto Padre, Punta Maisi and Kanati to have all personnel ready to repel aggression. (USN 834, 2/0S/[redacted] R666-63, 230434 Nov) (TSD)

44 USC 2107(5)(g)(2)(D)(i)

24. SECTION III/8 - Status of Cuban/Soviet Communications as of 22 Nov:

A new radar observation post has been completed and is in operation at Punta Mulas, Eastern Naval District. [redacted] that this new post entered communications with the Eastern Naval District net on 19 November. The commencement of operations was in honor of Captain Jomarron, who was possibly the officer in charge of construction at Punta Mulas prior to his death while serving as commanding officer of the Southern Sector of the Western Naval District.

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0600 25 November 1963 - 0600 26 November 1963

LTJG Tayler
SPC Hamilton
ENL Gwin

12. CATEGORY 13 - East Germany: Situation Report No. 112 - Political/Economic:
SED Communications on 22 November revealed that press, radio and television had been advised by the Party Agitation Commission in Berlin to "take note of a report" which implicated Fascist circles in the assassination of President Kennedy.

13. SECTION III/8 - Alert in Eastern Naval District Relaxed, 23 November:
As a result of the death of President Kennedy, the Eastern Naval District of Cuba was placed on an alert on 2004Z on 22 November by Banes, Headquarters for that District. At 2037Z on 23 November, the alert was relaxed a certain degree by Banes; instructions were passed to Santiago de Cuba, a subordinate, to give leave to 25 percent of their personnel. For the 23rd and 24th and that further orders would be forthcoming on 25 November 1963.
COMMENT: The authorization to grant leave to personnel is an indication that the alert is somewhat relaxed and the note that further instructions would be issued on Monday, 25 November indicates that a nonurgent view has been adopted for the situation by Cuban Naval authorities in the Eastern Naval District.
(DIRISA 2/0 [] R196-63, 251815Z Nov)(TSD)

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0600 26 November 1963 - 0600 27 November 1963

SFC Hamilton
YN1 Gwin

32. SECTION III/3 - Alert in Oriente Province Believed to be Terminated: (see Item #13, WCN's 25/26 November):

The alert in Oriente Province is believed to be terminated. The alert, apparently prompted by President Kennedy's death on 22 November, was possibly pre-scheduled to terminate on 25 November. There have been two orders which suggest that the alert was destined to be concluded on 25 November. They are:

1) Access to the coastal observation post at Punta Maisi (20-15N 74-09W) was restricted until 25 November because of the alert.

2) Subordinates of Banes, Headquarters Eastern Naval District, were to receive further orders on the 25th, presumably concerning their alert status; no such orders have been noted in communications.

There have been no further references in intercepted communications to the alert since 0222Z on 23 November.

It is possible that the restricted access to the observation post at Punta Maisi extends to other observation posts in Oriente Province such as reported on 23 November when First Army Coastal Observation Posts were placed in alert status, and that the restriction was to be lifted on 25 November by all those posts.

Further indications that the alert was terminated is the fact that the Cuban Navy was engaged in an island-wide communications exercise on 25 November. It is considered unlikely that such an exercise would be conducted under alert conditions.

There have been no further references to the alert status of the (D Percent Santiago de Cuba) units which was first observed on 23 November. All GRAF and Soviet Forces Cuba Communications appear to be normal during this period, 22 - 26 November 1963.

(DIRNSA 2/0/ [] 858-63, 262019Z Nov)(TSD)

44 USC 2107(5)(g)(2)(D)(i)

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